(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to conserve this site?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. This site has been declared as World Heritage Site as an extension to Nanda Devi National Park.

(b) State Government of Uttaranchal has proposed to undertake regular census of major bio-diversity in the National Park. To protect the bio-diversity in Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, a special force *viz.* 'Operation Snow Leopard" has been commissioned. This force would control poaching and illegal trafficking of valuable bio-diversity in Valley of Flowers which forms a part of the Nanda Devi Biosphere. Facilities for tourism have been developed from Govindghat to Ghangharia. Under the eco-development programmes activities like removal of plastic waste and other garbage from the National Park area have been taken up.

Corporate participation for conservation of monuments

445. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India, the sole custodian of the national monuments, has decided to allow corporate participation in its conservation efforts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the initial corporate participation would be for conservation of 5000 monuments under the ASI's direct protection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India is allowing corporate participation in conservation efforts under the auspices of the National Culture Fund.

(b) and (c) Negotiations are under process with various corporate houses for participation in the conservation of protected monuments of national importance. MoU has been signed/projects executed in five instances, details of which are given at enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the Archaeological Survey of India, the National Culture Fund and the participants regarding conservations of monuments.

Sl. No.	Particulars of Participants	Monuments
1.	Pune Municipal Corporation, Pune	Shaniwarwada, Pune (Maharashtra)
2.	Indian Oil Corporation (IOF)	Qutab Minar, New Delhi Hampi (Karnataka) Sun Temple, Konarak (Orissa) Kanheri Caves (Maharashtra) Khajuraho Group of Monuments (Madhya Pradesh) Warrangal Fort, Warrangal (Andhra Pradesh) has also been considered in the list of IOF for conservation and developmental activities.
3.	Appeejay Surendra Hotels	Jantar Mantar, Delhi
4.	Aga Khan Foundation and Oberoi Group of Hotels	Humayun's Tomb, Delhi
5.	Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (Tata Group)	Taj Mahal, Agra. (U.P.)

Munshi Premchand Memorial Research and Study Centre

446. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Munshi Premchand Memorial Research and Study Centre at his native village in U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost thereof;